

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 189483
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189483

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR PARKER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LE, US

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LEBANON: EMBASSY PRECAUTIONS

1. EVEN IF THE PRESENT FIGHTING CAN BE CONTAINED,
VIRTUALLY ALL THE TRENDS IN THE LEBANESE SITUATION ARE BAD.
A GOOD PART OF THE AREA IN WHICH YOU AND OTHER MEMBERS OF
THE EMBASSY HAVE TO WORK AND TRAVEL WILL HAVE POTENTIALLY
HOSTILE ELEMENTS. THE FACT THAT THE U.S. IS BEING BLAMED
FOR INACTION OR CONSPIRATORIAL ACTIONS, DEPENDING ON WHICH
VOICE ONE HEARS, ADDS TO THE ALREADY SERIOUS SECURITY
PROBLEMS YOU IN BEIRUT MUST FACE.

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD AS
QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE REVIEW THE EMBASSY'S PERSONNEL COMPLE-
MENT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE STAFF COULD BE DRAWN DOWN TO
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A MINIMUM OPERATING LEVEL FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT SEVERAL
MONTHS, WHILE PERHAPS HOLDING IN ABEYANCE FOR THE MOMENT
DECISIONS AS TO LONGER TERM PRESENCE AND GENERAL EMBASSY
PROFILE. WE UNDERSTAND YOU ARE ALREADY ENGAGED IN THIS
EXPERCISE, AND WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR VIEWS. IN
ADDITION, ON ANY GIVEN DAY, WE CANNOT BE SURE EXACTLY HOW
MANY AMERICANS ARE IN BEIRUT, GIVEN TDY PERSONNEL, ETC.

PLEASE GIVE US PRESENT PERSONNEL BY SECTION, INCLUDING
DEPENDENTS AND TDY PERSONNEL.

3. WE DO NOT WANT ANY UNNECESSARY RISKS. WASHINGTON IS
PREPARED TO LIVE WITH LESS REPORTING, FEWER CONTACTS,
AND A GENERALLY LOW EMBASSY PROFILE IN ORDER TO ASSURE
GREATER SAFETY.
CHRISTOPHER

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